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Livestock and Products

Update on the EU BSE situation in 2007 2008

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Report Highlights:

BSE cases in cattle in most EU Member States (MS) almost halved again in 2007 and no new cases were registered in 14 of the 27 MS. Hence, the EC updated its work program for the TSE Roadmap in November of 2007. Many EU MS are looking for ways to lower the cost of BSE monitoring. Measures could range from changing BSE monitoring to a risk-based system, increasing the age for Specified Risk Material (SRM) removal to reviewing the strict EU ban on all animal protein in feed for all animal species.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
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[E4]

EU BSE cases drop again by 46 percent in 2007

BSE cases in the EU				
	Total 2005	Total 2006	Total 2007	
			Cattle tested	Positives
AUSTRIA	2	2	219,257	1
BELGIUM	2	2	359,852	0
BULGARIA	0	0	18,604	0
CYPRUS	0	0	7,961	0
CZECH REPUBLIC	8	3	160,420	2
DENMARK	1	0	232,627	0
GERMANY	32	16	1,651,234	4
ESTONIA	0	0	35,316	0
FINLAND	0	0	119,338	0
FRANCE	31	8	2,356,241	8
GREECE	0	0	30,446	0
HUNGARY	0	0	85,146	0
IRELAND	70	38	810,854	25
ITALY	8	7	629,799	2
LATVIA	0	0	46,545	0
LITHUANIA	0	0	101,214	0
LUXEMBURG	1	0	13,557	0
NETHERLANDS	3	2	465,322	2
POLAND	20	10	603,758	9
PORTUGAL	51	33	88,826	14
ROMANIA	0	0	132,688	0
SLOVENIA	1	1	31,367	1
SLOVAKIA	3	0	61,887	2
SPAIN	103	68	466,805	40
SWEDEN	0	1	189,461	0
UNITED KINGDOM	226	129	771,389	65
Total EU	562	320	9,692,642	175

Source: [Report on the monitoring and testing of ruminants for the presence of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy \(TSE\) in the EU in 2007](#)

In its "[Report on the monitoring and testing of ruminants for the presence of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy \(TSE\) in the EU in 2007](#)¹," the European Commission (EC) announced another 46 percent decrease in BSE cases detected in cattle throughout the EU-27. This is the fifth consecutive year in which BSE cases are halved in most EU Member States (MS) after the last BSE crisis in 2002. The EC also highlights that 14 MS had no new cases in 2007, while only Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom still find significant numbers of BSE cases. The monitoring of TSE's in small ruminants is still intensifying, as new cases of atypical TSE/BSE in sheep continue to challenge scientists.

Continued execution of the TSE Roadmap

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/bse/annual_report_tse2007_en.pdf

EC DG SANCO continues the execution of its "TSE Roadmap"², which was published on July 15, 2005. In November of 2007, an updated [COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT](#)³ was published. Final categorization of third countries based on the OIE⁴ classification became a high priority, as transitional measures in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 (the "TSE Regulation") only apply until 1 July 2007. As BSE incidences in many MS are becoming insignificant, MS want to change their BSE monitoring programs from actively testing all cattle over 30 months of age at slaughter to a risk-based monitoring program. This should considerably lower the expense of BSE monitoring. The increasing cost of feed is also slowly putting the EU's strict total ban on animal protein in all animal feeds, with the exception of petfood, back on the table for discussion. However, the lack of an analysis method that is able to identify animal protein from different species remains an obstacle.

[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 357/2008](#)⁵ of April 22, 2008 increases the age of cattle for mandatory removal of Specified Risk Material (SRM) at slaughter to 30 months, up from 24 months. [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 571/2008](#)⁶ of June 18, 2008 set the criteria under which MS can apply to change their BSE monitoring program. The comprehensive [list](#)⁷ of legislative amendments to the EU's BSE/TSE regulation is available on the EC website.

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Related reports from USEU Brussels with info on EU policies:

Report Number	Title	Date Released
E48094	Livestock – Annual	08/22/2008
E48074	European Council further relaxes BSE rules	07/08/2008
E47110	European Commission approves €187 million to fight animal diseases in 2008	12/18/2007
E47079	EU Midyear 2007 BSE update	09/07/2007
These reports can be accessed through our website http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/ or through the FAS website http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/attacherep/default.asp .		

² http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/bse/roadmap_en.pdf

³ http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/bse/work_prog_tse_en.pdf

⁴ OIE – Office International des Epizooties (http://www.oie.int/fr/fr_index.htm)

⁵ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:111:0003:0004:EN:PDF>

⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:161:0004:0006:EN:PDF>

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/bse/chronological_list2008_en.pdf